15 Columbian Ave.
Greenville NH 03048
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The Editor
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100 William Loeb Dr
Manchester NH

EDITOR:

The Clinton administration's recent attempt to have the F.D.A. regulate tobacco as a drug, and ban all cigarette displays, promotions, and advertisement, reminds me of my mothers comments upon her return from Europe. The joke there is as follows: What is the difference between Eastern Europe and the United States? Eastern Europe has eliminated socialism.

Yes, my fellow Americans, we are the laughing stock of what we used to belong to: The Free World. Communism has fallen in places around the world; Places we never thought possible. In contrast,in the United States, our civilos and freedoms are being steadily restricted. This is a horrifying thought. Many of the problems we face today were created by a government who thought "they knew better than we did what was good for us."

Oh, I'm sure some of you are saying to yourselves, "who cares if they ban cigarettes." Maybe you're right. But cares, ban them, and while we're at it, let's ban guns; let's bring back prohibition. Fatty and high cholestrol foods are effecting peoples health daily. So,"what the heck," let's ban all foods with high contents of these. Thank goodness my children won't have to scream every time we pass the golden arches.

It has always been my belief that we were the leaders of the free world. We led by example. God forbid if the rest of the world follows us, because if it does we will no longer be a free world. I apologize if these words offend anyone, but I have to say them before my government starts to speak for me!

Sincerely,
David P. Patterson

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